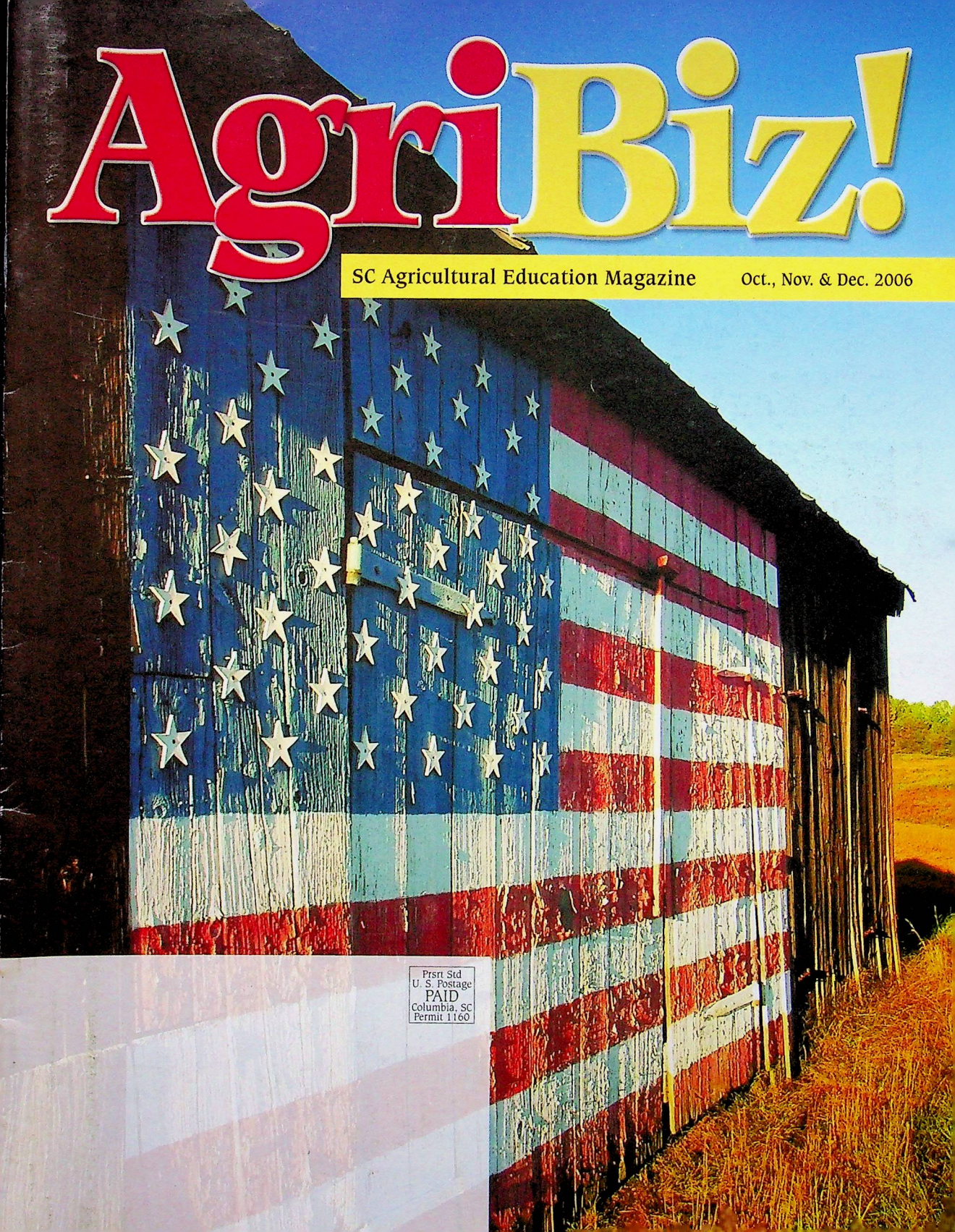


AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Oct., Nov. & Dec. 2006



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Top Adult Ag Ed Program in the South



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Flowers Family Farm near
Summerton, SC



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State Director,
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Editor

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John W. Parris, *State Director*
AgFirst Farm Credit Bank Bldg.
1401 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Telephone: 803-771-0520
Fax: 803-771-9009
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Lexington and Pelion FFA Members Contribute Poinsettias to Governor's Mansion



From the left: Pelion FFA members Macey Padgett, Savannah Williams, Gary Williamson; Lexington FFA Advisor Tommy Harmon; Lydia Roof, President, Lexington FFA Chapter; First Lady Jenny Sanford; Jeff Padgett, President, Pelion FFA Chapter; Pelion FFA Advisor Frank R. Stover, Jr.; Lexington FFA members Lindsey Motes, Anna Burns, Hannah Hammond and Jeff Slaven; and Josh Waters, Clemson University Agricultural Education senior from Gilbert who was practicing teaching at Lexington Technology Center.

FFA members who are enrolled in Horticulture courses at the Lexington Technology Center and Pelion High School continued the tradition of providing poinsettias to decorate the Governor's Mansion for the 2006 Christmas season.

The students and instructors Tommy Harmon, Lexington Technology Center; and Frank R. Stover, Jr., Pelion High School, presented the plants to First Lady Jenny Sanford at the Mansion on Tuesday, November 28, in preparation for decoration of the historic landmark by Columbia Garden Club members. They were accompanied by Jean Haggard, principal of Pelion High School and

John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association, who coordinated the event.

Mrs. Sanford welcomed the group to the Mansion where they were served iced tea before being afforded a comprehensive tour of the Mansion by Nancy Bunch, an

accomplished historian and member of Mrs. Sanford's staff.

Two Columbia television stations covered the presentation and interviewed Mrs. Sanford, Lexington FFA President Lydia Roof and Pelion FFA President Jeff Padgett for the evening news.

The plants were grown in the Pelion Agri-Science Department's modern greenhouse as a collaborative project of the Horticulture students at Pelion and the Lexington Technology Center, while a new state-of-the-art greenhouse was under construction at the Center. ~



Jean Haggard, principal of Pelion High School with First Lady Jenny Sanford.

Aiken FFA Members Provide Poinsettias to Decorate Clemson University Administrators Offices

Aiken FFA members Erin Hayes, Brittany Kneee, Scottie West and Calvin Tindall along with Joe Wilson, Horticulture Instructor at Aiken High School, delivered poinsettias in early December to Clemson University President James F. Barker to decorate his offices in Sikes Hall in preparation for the Christmas Season.

They also delivered poinsettias to decorate the offices of Dr. Calvin Schoulties, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson.

The students had grown the poinsettias in the high school Horticulture Department's greenhouses as part of their hands-on-training in plant production and marketing.



Aiken FFA Advisor Joe Wilson (left) with FFA members Brittany Kneee, Erin Hayes, Clemson President James F. Barker, FFA members Calvin Tindall and Scottie West.

This was the first time FFA members had provided poinsettias to Clemson University administrators. The special event was planned and coordinated by John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association. ~

Barnwell Adult Agricultural Education Program is Tops in Southern States

The Adult Division of the Agricultural Education Department at Barnwell County Career Center has been named the Outstanding Program in the Southern States and one of the top six in the nation by the National Association of Agricultural Educators for 2006.

Mindy Sandifer, head of the Agricultural Education Department at the Center, received the prestigious award at the national conference of agricultural educators held in Atlanta, Georgia in December.

Mrs. Sandifer, a graduate of Clemson University with a BS Degree and MS Degree in Agricultural Education, is known and respected throughout the nation for exemplary leadership in planning and implementing a superb Adult Agricultural Education Program. She has previously been named recipient of the National Teachers Turn the Key Award presented by the national agricultural educators group. She has also been recognized as the Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator in South Carolina by

the state agricultural educators association.

Mrs. Sandifer and her husband, Jeff, a fourth generation Barnwell County row crop farmer and officer of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, have a son, Weston Rhett. *~*



Mindy Sandifer

SC FFA Association Awarded \$100,000 Grant

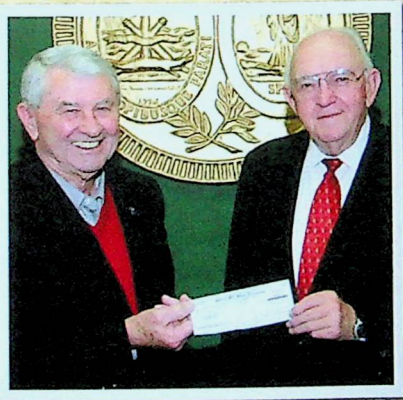
South Carolina FFA Association officers, staff and agricultural education teacher leaders were presented a check for \$100,000 by State Representative William D. Witherspoon, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee from Conway, SC, at a special ceremony in Columbia, SC, on December 18, 2006. Chairman Witherspoon presented the check to the SC FFA Association officials on behalf of the State Budget and Control Board.

The grant proposal had been prepared and submitted to the State Budget and Control Board's Competitive Grants Program by John W. Parris, state director of public affairs for the SC FFA organization earlier in the year. Chairman Witherspoon signed the proposal as Legislative sponsor.

The funds will be used to make some of the major repairs needed to the existing facilities at the fifty year old SC FFA Center in North Myrtle Beach.

Those attending the ceremony with Representative Witherspoon included Mr. Parris; SC FFA President Amanda Hiott of Williston and Clemson University; State FFA Vice President Katie McCannon, Pendleton; Steve McCannon, Chairman of the SC FFA Association Board of Directors and Agricultural Education Instructor at B. J. Skelton Career Center, Easley; Fred Raines, Chairman of the SC FFA Center Development Committee and Agricultural Education Instructor at Abbeville High School, Abbeville; William Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education; H. Keith Cox, Associate State Director of

Agricultural Education with Clemson University; and Zane Bryant, Resident Director of the SC FFA Center. *~*



State Representative William D. Witherspoon (left) presents the check for \$100,000 to John W. Parris

Fred Raines (left), Representative Witherspoon, Steve McCannon, Amanda Hiott, Billy Keels, Katie McCannon, Keith Cox and Zane Bryant.



South Carolinians Receive National FFA Awards

National FFA VIP Award

Retired Agricultural Educator Drefus Williams of Sumter, SC, was presented the VIP Award by the National FFA Organization during a nationally televised ceremony at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 27, 2006. The prestigious award was presented to Mr. Williams in recognition of his significant contributions to agricultural education, the New Farmers of America (NFA) and the FFA since 1953.

A recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree, Mr. Williams also received the

H. O. Sargent Award from the National FFA Organization for his leadership in the promotion of diversity in agricultural education.

During his long and distinguished career as an agricultural educator, Mr. Williams inspired hundreds of students to achieve greatness in their chosen profession. Sumter native and State Director of Agricultural Education, William E. Keels, is a former student of Mr. Williams. ~



Drefus Williams (center) with Dr. Larry Case (left), National FFA Advisor, Washington, DC; and Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education, Columbia, SC.

Honorary American FFA Degrees

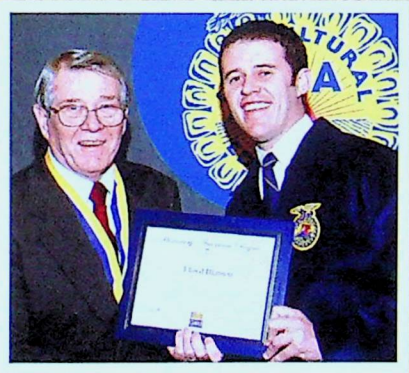
Three distinguished Agricultural Educators from South Carolina were awarded the coveted Honorary American FFA Degree during a nationally televised ceremony at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 27.

Those who received the award were Dr. Lloyd H. Blanton of Clemson, SC, retired

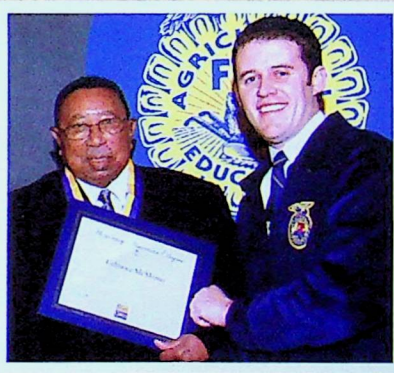
Head of the Department of Agricultural Education at Clemson University and a member of the board of directors of the SC FFA Foundation; Gilmore McManus of Andrews, SC, a retired Agricultural Educator with 40 years of service but currently serving as the interim Agricultural Education Teacher at Kingstree

Senior High School; Frank R. Stover, Jr. of Saluda, SC, Agricultural Education Teacher at Pelion High School with 25 years service.

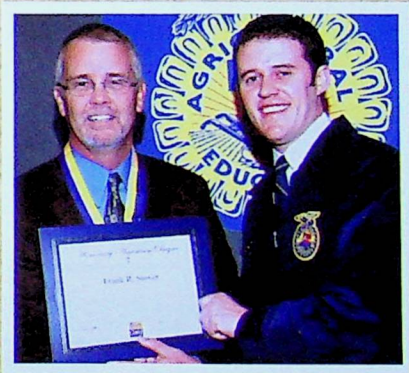
The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest award presented by the 495,000 member National FFA Organization to an agricultural educator or other friend and supporter of the FFA. ~



Dr. Lloyd H. Blanton (left) with National FFA President Travis Jett.



Gilmore McManus (left) with National FFA President Travis Jett.



Frank R. Stover, Jr. (left) with National FFA President Travis Jett.

SC FFA Chapters Receive National Recognition

Nine FFA Chapters from South Carolina were recognized during a nationally televised FFA Chapter Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 25-28, 2006.

The B.J. Skelton Chapter, Easley, SC; the Crescent Chapter, Iva, SC, and

the McBee Chapter, McBee, SC, were recognized in the Three Star category.

The Aiken Chapter, Aiken, SC; the Lakewood Chapter, Sumter, SC; the Latta Chapter, Latta, SC; the Lexington Technology Center Chapter, Lexington, SC; the Myrtle Beach Chapter at Carolina Forest High School, Myrtle Beach, SC; and the Wagener-Salley

Chapter, Wagener, SC, were recognized in the two star category.

This recognition identifies these chapters as among the outstanding ones in the nation. There are more than 7200 FFA chapters located in every state, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands with more than 495,000 members. ~

Sanderson Named To National Young Farmer Board

Steve Sanderson of Sumter, SC, Associate State Director of Agricultural Education and Executive Secretary of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, has been named to a two year term on the Board of Directors of the National Young Farmer Education Association.



Mr. Sanderson is representing state executive secretaries of young farmer organizations throughout the nation.

The National Young Farmer Education Association is the official adult organization for agriculture education as recognized by the US Department of Education.

Cox Named to National FFA Foundation Board

H. Keith Cox of Latta, SC, Associate State Director of Agricultural Education with Clemson University and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the SC FFA Association, has



been elected to the Board of Directors of the National FFA Foundation for a three year term. He will serve as a representative of the state FFA executive secretaries.

The Foundation raises approximately \$12 million annually to support the FFA of which more than \$2 million is awarded as college scholarships to outstanding FFA members throughout the nation.

SC FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized at National Level

Fourteen (14) SC FFA members were recognized by the National FFA Organization for participation in the Agricultural Proficiency Awards Program in 2006.

The students recognized, their proficiency award category, chapter and placing are shown here. Amanda Arnold, Small Animal Production and Care, Berea, Bronze; Cameron Burns, Beef Production, Pendleton Bronze; Chase Cato, Diversified Crop Production, Aiken, Bronze; Benjamin Fairfax, Agricultural Mechanics, York, Bronze; Flint Holbrook, Agricultural Mechanics-Energy Systems, Clover, Silver; Rebecca Keller, Specialty

Animal Production, York, Silver; Madeline Renee Milford, Dairy Production, Dixie, Bronze; Mark Moore, Small Animal Care-Placement, Laurens, Bronze; Emily Nance, Dairy Production-Placement, York, Bronze; William Nelson, Agricultural Communications, Laurens, Bronze; David Carson Norris, Jr., Forage Production, Belton-Honea Path, Bronze; James Smoak, Diversified Livestock Production, Barnwell County Career Center, Bronze; Will Tinsley, Home and Community Development, Berea, Bronze; and Jewell Wrighten, Equine Science, Barnwell County Career Center, Bronze.

SC FFA Members in National Finals

The SC FFA Association was represented by 17 teams and/or individuals in National Finals at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. CDE teams or individuals, their chapter and national placing are listed here:

Agricultural Issues, Manning, Bronze; Agricultural Mechanics, Wagener-Salley, Bronze-William Blackwell, Silver Individual; Agronomy, Strom Thurmond, Silver- Parker Northrop, Gold Individual and Kyle Harper, Silver Individual; Creed Speaking, Michael Waites, Wagener-Salley, Bronze; Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Saluda, Bronze-Nicole Hall, Silver Individual; Dairy Foods, Fort Mill, Bronze-Rachel Ostendorff, Silver Individual; Environmental-Natural Resources, Calhoun Falls, Bronze; Extemporaneous Speaking, Justin Floyd, Chesterfield, Bronze; Farm

Business Management, Aynor, Bronze; Floriculture, Lexington Technology Center, Bronze-Will Amick, Silver Individual and Timothy Williams, Silver Individual; Forestry, Strom Thurmond, Silver-Josh McIlvried, Gold Individual and a \$500 Scholarship, Jonathan Holmes, Silver Individual, and Ashley Miller, Silver Individual; Horse, Hillcrest, Silver-Casey Hill, Silver Individual, Chelsea Jones, Silver Individual, Robyn Kellett, Silver Individual; Livestock, Chesterfield, Bronze; Nursery-Landscape, Lexington Technology Center, Bronze-Robbie Fox, Silver Individual, Cooper Ress, Silver Individual, Jeff Slaven, Silver Individual; Parliamentary Procedure, Abbeville, Bronze; Poultry, Wagener-Salley, Bronze-Kristin Williams, Silver Individual; and Prepared Public Speaking, Katie McCannon, Pendleton, Bronze.

Dr. Tom Dobbins (left), Clemson University Agricultural Education Program Coordinator and a Director of the National FFA Alumni Association; Blake Berry, Clemson University Agricultural Education graduate student and Clemson Collegiate FFA Organization Student Advisor; and Frank Saldana, Executive Director, National FFA Alumni, Indianapolis, Indiana, in the FFA Alumni Center at the National FFA Convention.

The National FFA Alumni Association auctions brought in \$117,711 which will be used for scholarships for FFA members across the nation.



Lexington and Thurmond FFA Teams to Compete in National Land Judging Finals

The Lexington Technology Center FFA team took first place honors in the State FFA Soil Judging Finals held in November on the Pendleton area farm of Mac and Lois Walters. The Strom Thurmond Technology Center team was named Runner-up in the event.

Lexington team members Emily Ivey, Gerad Mintz, Will Amick, and Patrick Williams, along with their advisor, Tommy Harmon, were awarded expense-paid trips to compete in the National Land and Range Judging Finals in Oklahoma, May 2-3, 2007. Thurmond team members Samuel Northrop, Parker Northrop, Kyle Harper and Graham Holson, along with their advisor, Dan Henderson, were also awarded expense-paid trips to the national finals.

Strom Thurmond team member Kyle Harper, the high individual scorer in the state-wide competition, was awarded a

trip to the 2007 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Lexington team member Emily Ivey, the second high individual scorer, received an engraved watch.

Crescent High School FFA team members John Davis, Adam Zappitella, Justin Coker and Andrew Gaines took third place honors in the state competition. They were coached by Tim Keown, Agricultural Science Instructor at Crescent.

The state competition is cosponsored by Duke Energy, Progress Energy, SCANA, Inc., the SC Conservation Districts Foundation and the SC Association of Conservation Districts. The event is planned and conducted by soil scientists with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Carolina Soils and Wetlands, LLC; and Agricultural Education administrative staff with Clemson University. ~



Lexington FFA Soil Judging Team members Emily Ivey, Gerad Mintz, Will Amick and Patrick Williams with Tommy Harmon, Advisor.



Thurmond Soil Judging Team members Samuel Northrop (left), Parker Northrop, Kyle Harper and Graham Holson with FFA Advisor Dan Henderson.



State FFA Soil Judging Sponsor representatives (from left): Michael S. Wilson, Manager of Customer Relations, Duke Energy, Anderson; Greg Henderson, President, SC Association of Conservation Districts, Greenwood; Amanda Hiott, President of the SC FFA Association, Williston; and Amanda Bauknight, Chair of the SC Conservation Districts Foundation, Easley.



State FFA President Amanda Hiott congratulates Kyle Harper on being named the High Individual Scorer in the State FFA Soils Event and winning a trip to the 2007 National FFA Convention.

Lexington FFA Wildlife Management Team Takes Top State Honors

The Lexington Technology Center FFA Wildlife Management Team took first place honors in the state finals held in Pendleton, SC in November. The team was coached by Josh Waters of Gilbert, SC, a senior at Clemson University majoring in Agricultural Education, who was practicing teaching at the Center under the supervision of Tommy Harmon, Agricultural Science Instructor.

Team members Branden Baker, Ilya Timtchenko, Suzette Sharpe and Daniel Rummel along with their advisor, Tommy Harmon, were awarded expense-paid

trips to the 2007 National FFA Convention. Ilya Timtchenko was the high individual scorer and Daniel Rummel was the third high individual scorer in the state-wide competition.

The state Wildlife Management Career Development Event, cosponsored by Quail Unlimited and the SC FFA Association, was conducted by Clemson University Agricultural Education administrative staff and officials with the SC Department of Natural Resources. ~



Team Coach Josh Waters (left) with team members Branden Baker, Ilya Timtchenko, Suzette Sharpe and Daniel Rummel.

SC Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships to FFA Members at State Fair

West Oak FFA member Amy Williams and Crescent FFA member Daniel Jarrard were each awarded \$2500 by the SC Farm Bureau for their participation in the Junior Beef Cattle Division of the SC State Fair.

Amy is a sophomore at Clemson University majoring in Agricultural Education and Daniel is a sophomore at Crescent High School.

Madeline Milford, a member of the Dixie High School FFA Chapter where she was Valedictorian of her graduating class, was awarded a \$2000 scholarship for her participation in the Junior Dairy Division. She is a freshman at Clemson University majoring in Animal and Veterinary Science.

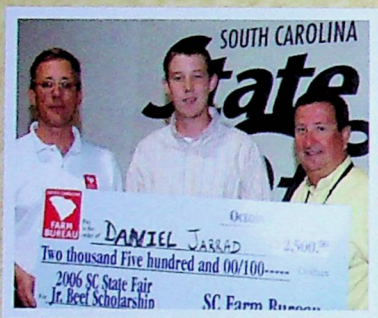
Sally Yon, a sophomore at Ridge Spring-Monetta High School where she serves as the FFA chapter secretary, was awarded a \$1500 scholarship for her participation in the Junior Swine Division at the State Fair.

York FFA Chapter member Rebecca Keller was awarded a \$1000 scholarship for her participation in the Wether Goat Division at the Fair. Rebecca is a freshman at York Technical College.

Selection of the scholarship recipients is based on their success in the production of quality animals, their showmanship abilities, and overall knowledge of the animal industry.



Amy Williams with SC Farm Bureau official Eric Snyder (left) and Gary Goodman, Manager of the SC State Fair.



SC Farm Bureau official Eric Snyder (left) presents check to Daniel Jarrard. Gary Goodman, General Manager of the State Fair, is at right.



Madeline Milford with Rick Doran (left), a Newberry County Dairy Farmer and representative of the SC Farm Bureau, and Dr. Tom Dobbins, Superintendent of the Livestock Department at the State Fair and Program Coordinator of Agricultural Education at Clemson University.



Rebecca Keller (center) with Frances Price, representing SC Farm Bureau; and Dr. Donnie King, faculty member in Agricultural Education at Clemson University and superintendent of the Wether goat project at the SC State Fair.



Sally Yon (center) with SC Farm Bureau official Larry McKenzie and Nancy Smith with the State Fair.

B.J. Skelton FFA Equine Team to Compete in National Finals

The B.J. Skelton Career Center FFA Equine Team took first place honors in the State Finals held December 9 at Welcome Ranch near Williamston, SC, owned by Gene and Lisa Cromer.

Team members Courtney Bridges, Angelia Knox, Jessica Mitchell and Caitlin Raines along with their advisor, Steve McCannon, were awarded expense-paid trips to the 2007 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, to compete in the National FFA Equine Finals. Caitlin Raines was the high individual scorer in the overall event.

The Belton-Honea Path team was State Runner-up and the Travelers Rest team placed third.



Gilbert FFA Rodeo was a Great Success

A record-breaking crowd from throughout the southeast attended the two-day Gilbert High School FFA Rodeo on October 20-21 at the Murray Town Circle B Arena near Gilbert.

The Rodeo, affiliated with the Southern Rodeo Association, was professionally produced by Rockin'R Rodeo, LLC. Herndon Chevrolet of Lexington was the primary sponsor. A number of other supporters purchased large advertising banners which were prominently displayed around the arena.

Performers came from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Highlights of the event included Bareback Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling, Saddle Bronc Riding, Cowgirls' Break-a-Way Roping, Bull Riding, Cowgirls' Barrel Racing, Team Roping and Calf Roping.

Gilbert FFA Advisor Derrick Cooper, an Agri-Science Instructor at Gilbert High School, expressed appreciation to the hundreds of friends and supporters



who made the Rodeo happen. Major players in making it a successful reality were Paul Shealy, Wyman and Angie Keisler, Georgia Attaway, Odell and Wanda S. Barnes, Cindy Sons and the Gilbert FFA members.

"All the proceeds from the event will go to support programs of the Gilbert FFA Chapter," Mr. Cooper said.



Gilbert FFA Treasurer Ricky Keisler, Vice President Kristin Miller and President Casey Attaway visit a Saddle Shop, one of the many vendors and exhibitors at the Rodeo.

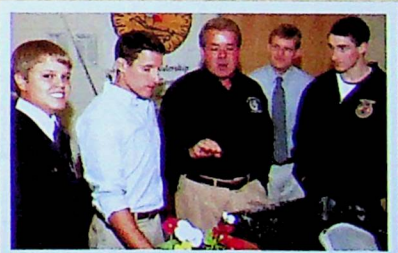
Blythewood FFA Featured on WIS-TV News Show

The Blythewood High School FFA Chapter hosted WIS-TV's popular morning on-location show "Live With Lucas" which featured Lucas McFadden live from the Agri-Science Department, Monday, October 16, from 5:30 AM until 7 AM.

Blythewood FFA Chapter President Marc Meddaugh shared with the TV viewers how the FFA is reaching thousands of students who are interested in preparing for one of the more than 300 exciting, challenging and rewarding careers in the business, science or technology of agriculture.

Blythewood FFA members and Advisor Tom Willingham demonstrated to Mr. McFadden and the TV audience how to produce and market flowering plants, tie a fishing line, construct duck boxes for wildlife habitat improvement, repair small engines and operate an expensive zero-turn turf mower.

A major focus of the show was to provide Blythewood FFA members along with Richland County Farm-City Week officials and Ducks Unlimited members an opportunity to kick off Farm-City Week in Richland County which is designed to emphasize the importance and interdependence of the rural and urban sectors of society. Mr. Willingham is Chair-elect of the 2007 Richland County Farm-City Week Observance.



FFA Chapter President Marc Meddaugh (left) with Lucas McFadden, Tom Willingham, David Polson, Assistant Principal at Blythewood, and FFA member Daniel Broome.

Aiken FFA Partners with Outback Steakhouse

The Aiken FFA Chapter entered into partnership with a local Outback Steakhouse in October to raise funds for their program.

Restaurant proprietor Sean Gerrard agreed to support the FFA by opening the restaurant on a Saturday for a special "FFA Day" lunch for more than one hundred friends and supporters who had purchased tickets for the event from FFA members.

"The event proved to be a very successful fundraiser for our chapter and we plan for it to become an annual event," said Joe Wilson, FFA advisor at Aiken High School. "Everyone enjoyed a great meal along with valuable door prizes and lot of fun," he added.



Aiken FFA members Amber Boyd and Connor Bennett (at left) with Outback Steakhouse proprietor Sean Gerrard, Aiken FFA Advisor Joe Wilson and FFA members Sabrina Harmon, Erin Hayes, Brittany Kneese, Scottie West and Tiffany Spivey.

Blythewood FFA Members Participate in Farm-city Observance

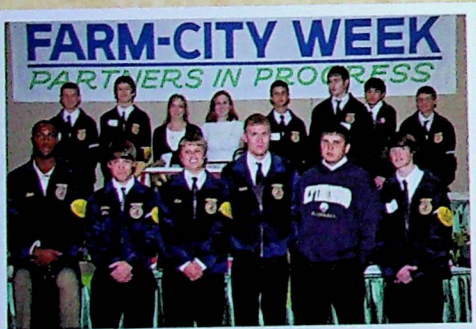
A number of Blythewood High School FFA members participated in the Richland County Farm-City Week Luncheon held in Columbia in November.

For the first time ever, Blythewood High School FFA members served as members of the SC FFA Courtesy Corps for the event. They also assisted with registration of attendees and shared the Blythewood FFA story through a power-point presentation. Chapter President Marc Meddaugh offered the invocation.

A highlight of the event was the presence of well known news media personalities from the Columbia area who served as chefs to assist with preparing the meal.

The Blythewood FFA Chapter was recognized as the first recipient of the high school horticulture science achievement award presented at the luncheon.

Blythewood FFA Advisor Tom Willingham was named Chair of the Richland County Farm-City Executive Board for 2007. *rw*



Blythewood FFA members in attendance at the Richland County Farm-City Week Kick-Off Luncheon (from left in front) Chris Keensee, Justin Abbott, Marc Meddaugh, Thomas McSwain, Ryan Fleming and Grant Poston. (From left in back) Drew Turfa, Mason Rauch, Jamie Adams, Frances Tayer, Shane Mincey, Dan Creech, Travis Soude and Brandon Howe.

Witherspoon Receives Agricultural Education Award

State Representative William D. Witherspoon of Conway, SC, has been named recipient of the Distinguished Service to Agricultural Education Award for 2006 by the SC Agricultural Educators Association.

Harry DuBose, president-elect of the SC Agricultural Educators Association and Agri-Science Instructor at Carolina Forest High School near Myrtle Beach, SC, presented the award to Representative Witherspoon at the SC FFA Recognition Luncheon held in conjunction with the SC State Fair.

Representative Witherspoon was recognized for his outstanding support of Agricultural Education in South Carolina as chairman of the House



Harry DuBose (left) with Mrs. Linda Witherspoon and State Representative William D. Witherspoon

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. He has previously received the Honorary American FFA Degree, the highest award available from the 495,000 member National FFA Organization.

The award, established by the SC Agricultural Educators Association in 2002, is named in honor of John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association. *rw*

Newberry Conservation District Celebrates Agricultural Education

The Newberry Conservation District Board of Commissioners and staff celebrated the restoration of Agricultural Education in Newberry County by recognizing the two Agricultural Education Teachers at their annual Awards and Recognition Banquet in October.

Newberry County's Agricultural Educators are Charlotte Jennings who teaches at the Newberry County Career Center and Ben Rodgers who teaches at Newberry High School and Mid Carolina High School.

Charlotte Jennings, the keynote speaker at the banquet, was presented a check by the conservation district



Newberry Conservation District Chairman Wayne Satterwhite (left) with District Commissioner Barbara C. Baughman; Agricultural Educator and guest speaker Charlotte Jennings; Conservation District Education Coordinator Annette Davis; and Hodge Harmon, District Commissioner.

commissioners to support the agricultural education programs in the county, specifically the FFA.

The Newberry Conservation District has long been recognized as one of the most progressive districts in the state. Its support of Agricultural Education is welcomed and appreciated. *rw*

Summerton Area Flowers Farm Known for Agri-Technology, Environmental Management and Quality Produce

Roger L. Flowers and Roger L. Flowers, Jr., of Summerton, SC, owners and operators of a 3000-plus acre farm, are sticklers for using the latest agri-technology and protecting the environment while producing and marketing fresh-from-the-field vegetables and other truck crops.

Their operation consists of more than 600 acres of the finest vegetables and other produce of highest quality and taste. Micro-irrigation is an essential management tool in the production of quality produce.

Tomatoes constitute the largest segment of their truck crop operation with more than 200 acres planted in the spring

and 75 acres in the fall. The majority of the tomatoes are grown for a packing company but a few are sold along with a mix of other vegetables at a produce stand adjacent the farm and to some local grocery stores.

Other crops grown and marketed include sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, okra, greens, squash, watermelons and cantaloupe. Greens and squash are sold to a cannery.

The farm has five irrigation wells ranging in depth from 700 to 1000 feet. These wells provide water to seven center pivot irrigation systems covering 1000

Roger Flowers in a field of young staked, micro-irrigated tomatoes growing on plastic.

acres and four underground drip systems on 500 acres.

All crops are grown with an extensive agronomic program utilizing a professional agronomist to conduct soil and plant tissue analysis.

GPS auto steer is used on all their primary tractors when laying off rows and installing plastic and drip tape for irrigation and fertigation.

Continuing education is essential for an operation like Flowers Farms. They are active participants in numerous vegetable production and marketing conferences throughout the year.

Visitors are invited to the Flowers Farm Produce Stand during harvest season. After experiencing the quality of fresh vegetables and other truck crops grown there, they are sure to return often as satisfied customers. ~

Lexington Farm-City Committee Honors FFA Members

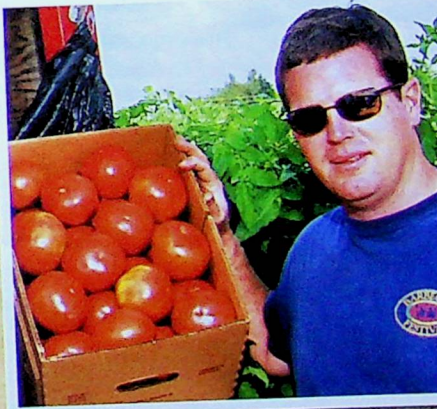


Casey Attaway (left), President of the Pelion FFA Chapter; State Senator and FFA Alumnus Ronnie Cromer; Farm-City Program Coordinator Frances Price; Kenneth Lake, Director, Lexington Technology Center; Lydia Roof, President of the Lexington Technology Center; and Camilla Crocker, an Equine specialist with Hendrix Farms.

The Lexington County Farm-City Committee recognized FFA chapter officers and advisors from Lexington Technology Center, Pelion High School, Gilbert High School and Batesburg-Leesville High School in November. The event which included a delightful banquet at the Lexington Technology Center was coordinated by Mrs. Frances Price of Gilbert, SC.

The observance of Farm-City Week is designed to emphasize the importance of agriculture and the interdependence of the rural and urban sectors of society.

A major highlight of the event is the Farm-City Showcase held in downtown Lexington and attended by hundreds of interested citizens. "FFA members play a major role in the success of this event," Mrs. Price said. ~



Roger L. Flowers, Jr., with a box of fall tomatoes.

Raines Recognized by Clemson Collegiate FFA Group

Fred Raines, a member of the faculty at Abbeville High School, has been named the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher in South Carolina by the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization. The award was presented to Mr. Raines by Blake Berry, a graduate student at Clemson University in Agricultural Education and Student Advisor to the Collegiate FFA.

Mr. Raines was named "Star Teacher" at Abbeville High School in the spring and selected for the Golden Apple Award by WYFF-TV and featured on the evening news in November 2006.

A graduate of Morehead State College with a BS Degree in Animal Science, Mr.


Raines received a MS Degree in Agricultural Education at Clemson University. He was one of the first Agricultural Educators in South Carolina to become National Board Certified.

Mr. Raines, a member of the prestigious Pendleton Farmers Society, is a recipient of the American FFA Degree which is the highest award presented to an FFA member at the national level.

During his teaching career, Mr. Raines has coached seven first or second place state FFA Land Judging Teams who have advanced to the National Finals. He has also coached a number of state champion teams in Dairy Foods, Parliamentary



Fred Raines (left) is congratulated by Blake Berry.

Procedure, Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Creed Speaking. He has guided five of his students to become state FFA officers. 

Lexington FFA Member Slaven Assisted With Design and Installation of Ornamental Garden Display at State Fair

Lexington Technology Center student Jeff Slaven assisted with the design and installation of a beautiful and patriotic ornamental garden display which filled the Ellison Building at the SC State Fair, October 11-22, 2006. He is studying Landscape Design and Horticulture under the leadership of Tommy Harmon, Agri-Science Instructor at the Center.

Jeff, a landscape design and installation intern with Barfield Landscape Company headquartered in West Columbia, SC, demonstrated superb knowledge of


plant identification, selection and skill of placement in developing the garden exhibit.

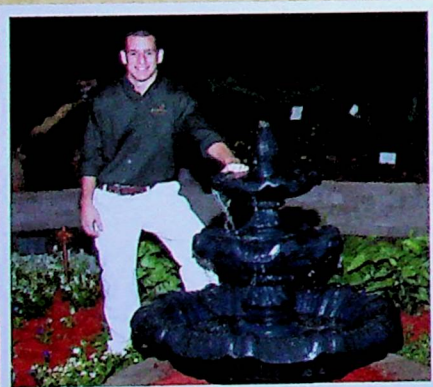
Thousands of visitors were awed by the beauty of the display highlighted by colorful plants and shrubs, sculpture, water gardens and waterfalls.

According to Gary Goodman, General Manager of the SC State Fair, the centerpiece of the Garden Exhibit was Glenna Goodacre's "Pledge Allegiance" on loan from Brookgreen Gardens in Pawley's Island, SC. "Pledge Allegiance" is a sculpture of several young children raising and saluting the American Flag. The oversized sculpture depicts a boy hoisting the flag while three groups totaling six other children recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The flag and rope are real with all other elements cast in bronze with brown and gold patina. The exhibit theme "Red White Blue" celebrated the freedom Americans

enjoy and the sacrifices made to preserve that freedom.

An officer of the Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter, Jeff has been a member of the State FFA Champion Nursery-Landscape Team and the State FFA Champion Floriculture Team. He competed in the finals at the National FFA Convention where he was recognized as an Individual Silver Award winner in both competitions. He has also participated in the SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony, attended the SC FFA Leadership Conference and served as a charter member of the SC FFA Association Courtesy Corps at the SC State Fair.

Jeff plans to pursue undergraduate studies at one of the technical colleges and Clemson University where he will major in agriculture. 



Porter Named President of Clemson Collegiate FFA

Wes Porter, a junior at Clemson University, has been named president of the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization for 2007. He is majoring in Agricultural Mechanization and Business.

He was also named recipient of the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award at the annual Collegiate FFA Awards and Recognition Banquet held in December.

Wes is the son of Mark and Carol Porter of Pickens, SC.



Idaho Agricultural Educator Visits Barnwell County Career Center

Idaho Agricultural Educator Erica Whitmore visited the Barnwell County Career Center in December 2006 to observe the outstanding FFA and Adult Agricultural Education programs headed up by Mindy Sandifer, Agricultural Education Instructor at the center. Ms. Whitmore stopped by Barnwell on her way to Atlanta, Georgia for the National Agricultural Educators Conference.

An Agricultural Education Instructor at Kendrick High School in Kendrick, Idaho, Ms. Whitmore offers courses in Agriculture Production, Livestock Production, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Soils, Forestry, Welding and Woodworking. She also serves as the local FFA chapter advisor.

A 2001 graduate of Washington State University where she met her husband, Paul, Ms. Whitmore serves as president of

Erica Whitmore (center left) and Mindy Sandifer with Barnwell County FFA members

the local Lions Club and secretary of the Idaho Agricultural Educators Association.

Ms. Whitmore visited the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville and a number of farms and other agri-businesses while in Barnwell County.



Clemson Students Attend Cooperative Awareness Seminar

A select group of Clemson University Agricultural Education students attended a Cooperative Awareness Seminar and Luncheon sponsored by the SC Cooperative Council on October 19 at the Madren Center on the Clemson campus.

The students in attendance were:

Chris Moss, Christina Lucia, Heather Dover, Devin Sox, Stephanie Moore, Jesse Miskelly, Jimmy Shaw, Elizabeth Oliver, Heather Schnider, Jennifer Perkins, Anna Jenkins, Mac Ledbetter, Shane Oxendine, Jennifer Miller, John Duke, Jill Jeffords, Darla Simons and Roman Fox.

Featured speakers at the Seminar were: Dr. David Hughes, Extension Specialist, Clemson Institute for Economic and

Community Development, Columbia; Miriam Pflug, AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA, Spartanburg; and Denise McCormick, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Westminster.

The Seminar was planned and coordinated by Marie Stiles, Executive Director of the SC Cooperative Council, Leesville; John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association and a consultant to the SC Cooperative Council Board; and Dr. Phil Fravel, a member of the Agricultural Education faculty at Clemson.



Dr. Calvin Schoulties, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson, addressed the attendees and expressed appreciation to the SC Cooperative Council for sponsoring the seminar.

Attorney Addresses Chester Young Farmer & Agribusiness Chapter

Beth Crocker, an attorney with the SC Department of Agriculture, addressed the Chester County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter in August.

Ms. Crocker discussed the appeals process available to farmers when an agricultural permit is denied them by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. She also explained the new Right to Farm legislation which prevents counties from enacting more stringent regulations on agricultural development than those imposed by state law.

Kip Beam (left), Lee Green, Director of the Chester County Career Center; Beth Crocker and JEB Wilson.

JEB Wilson of Lowrys serves as president of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter and Kip Beam, agricultural education teacher at the Chester County Career Center, is advisor to the group.



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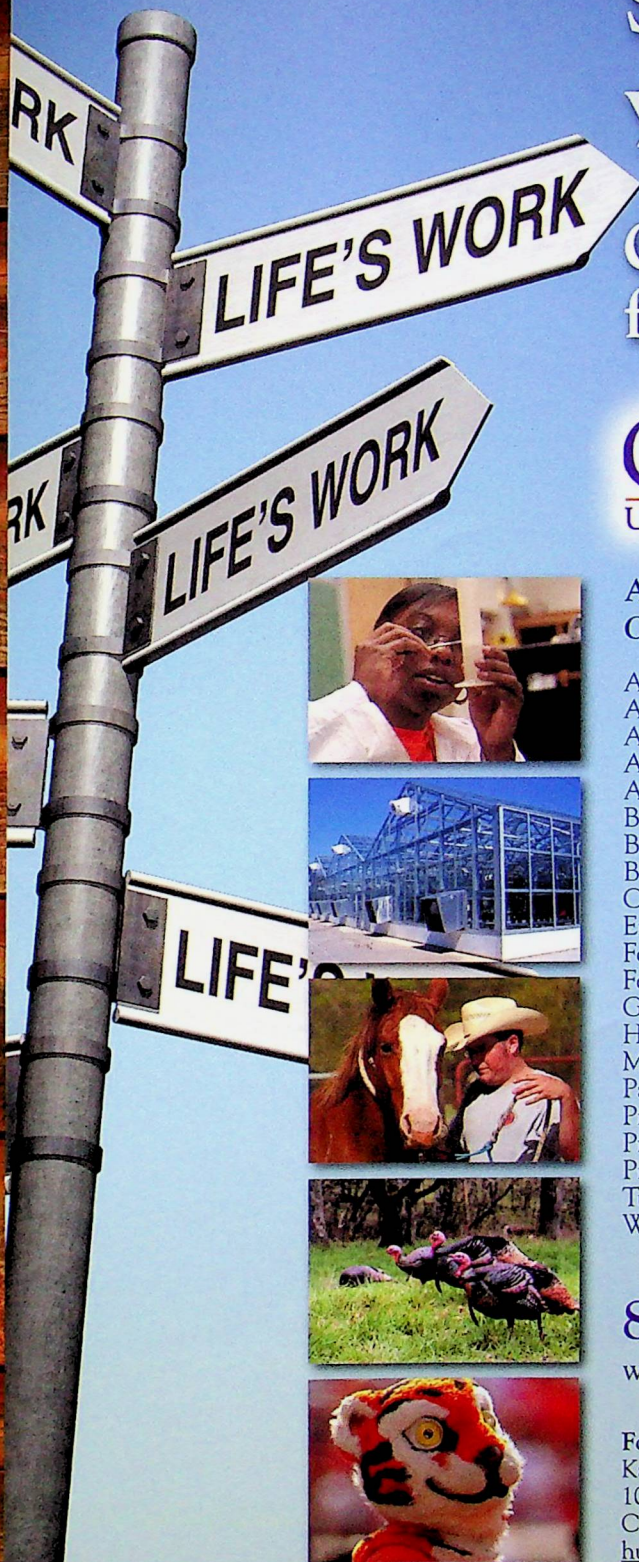
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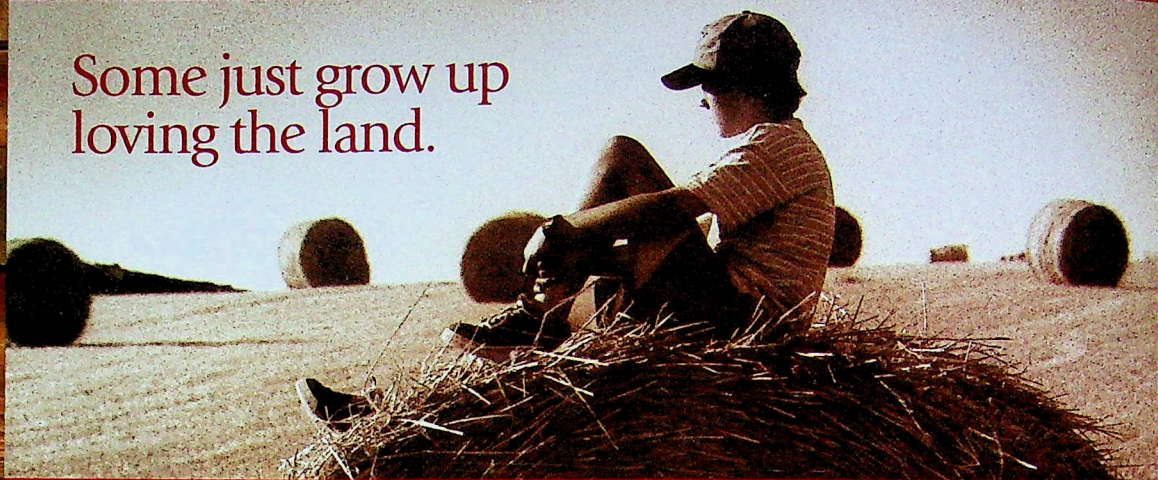
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